News Release
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Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

Ministère de la Sante et des Soins de longue durée

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MCGUINTY GOVERNMENT HOLDING PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON FUTURE OF HEALTH CARE

Government Wants To Hear From Ontarians On 10-Year Strategic Plan

Ajax – The McGuinty government wants to hear from local residents as it develops a 10-year strategic plan for the province's health care system, Wayne Arthurs, MPP for Pickering-Ajax-Uxbridge, announced today on behalf of Health and Long-Term Care Minister George Smitherman.

"Listening to Ontarians is essential to the development of a long-term plan for the province's health system because it is their system," said Arthurs. "Our government has made significant progress in increasing access to health care and bringing down wait times. We want to make sure our health system will be there for Ontarians in the future because we're in this together."

A public regional consultation will be held on Wednesday, February 28, at 6:30 p.m. at:

Pickering City Hall
Council Chambers
One the Esplanade
Pickering ON L1V 6K7

The meeting in Pickering is being hosted by Arthurs, and speakers will include Marilyn Emery, CEO of the Central East Local Health Integration Network (LHIN).

The consultations will allow local residents an opportunity to have their say about the future of health care in Ontario, as well as front-line health care providers and organized health care groups. Members of the public who wish to attend or participate in the consultations can obtain more information by calling 1-866-968-9582 or visiting www.register-ourplanforhealth.ca.

The 2.5-hour session will highlight the government's progress in building a stronger health care system in Ontario, health and social trends in the province, future system challenges and opportunities, and an overview of what the government and LHINs have already heard from the public.

Participants at the session will then be engaged in a dialogue about the important values and priorities that will shape Ontario's future health care system.

The regional consultation is just one of many ways that the government has been obtaining feedback from Ontarians on their health care priorities and concerns. Opinions have been collected through other meetings with health care stakeholders, telephone surveys, e-mails to a dedicated website (www.ourplanforhealth.ca) and through a toll-free phone line: 1-866-532-3161.

The consultations will be part of the development of a strategic plan, which is a commitment legislated

under the Local Health System Integration Act. The plan will set out a vision, priorities and strategic directions for our health care system over the next 10 years.

"Developing a plan is a huge challenge and responsibility," said Smitherman. "And we can't do it without listening to the thoughts, concerns and ideas from the people of Ontario."

Today's initiative is part of the McGuinty government's plan for innovation in public healthcare and building a system that delivers on three priorities – keeping Ontarians healthy, reducing wait times and providing better access to doctors and nurses

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Media Contacts:

David Spencer
Minister's Office
416-327-4320

A.G. Klei
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
416-314-6197

Members of the general public: 1-866-532-3161

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